AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

# Environmental Assessment for Future Development on the South Federal Campus

## Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
## Richland, Washington

DOE/EA - 1958

**The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to assess potential environmental effects from the proposed activities associated with the future development on the South Federal Campus of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) Site, in Benton County.**

## Overview

This Environmental Assessment (EA) provides information and analysis of proposed U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) activities associated with the future development on the South Federal Campus of the DOE Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) Site, in Benton County, Washington. The proposed South Federal Campus Development (SFCD) would add up to provide an additional 9,000 $m^2$ (100,000 $ft^2$) of state-of-the-art facilities and associated infrastructure and/or expand existing facilities and infrastructure. These facilities will would allow for DOE research for DOE to meet its strategic research objectives.

Specific facility locations and final facility designs for the proposed SFCD within the South Federal Campus are still being determined; therefore, this EA provides a bounding analysis for the Proposed Action. The data used for the analysis was obtained from recently built as well as currently operating facilities (e.g., the William R. Wiley Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory [EMSL] and the Physical Sciences Facility [PSF].

Information contained in this EA will be used by the DOE-Office of Science (DOE-SC) to determine if the Proposed Action represents a major federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. If the Proposed Action is determined to be a major action with potentially significant environmental impacts, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required. If the Proposed Action is not determined to be a major action that could result in significant environmental impacts, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued, and the action may proceed. This EA is prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (; 42 USC 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508); and the DOE National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures (10 CFR Part 1021).

***Public Comment Period is from May 30th – June 30th, 2013***

# Environmental Assessment for Future Development on the South Federal Campus

DOE/EA - 1958

## Background

**The PNNL campus is located near the Tri-Cities in southeastern Washington State. It is north of Richland and south of the DOE Hanford Site 300 Area. The PNNL, encompasses DOE-SC federally owned land designated as the DOE PNNL Site, as well as adjacent Battelle-owned land and buildings and third-party leased facilities. The DOE PNNL Site (DOE-SC) occupies approximately 140 ha (346 ac); the additional Battelle land adds 106.8 ha (264 ac). The area immediately south of the PNNL campus is comprised of public and privately owned land. This area will be developed with office, laboratory, residential, and retail space as part of the Tri-Cities Research District. PNNL's collaboration with educational research type institutions is highlighted by a PNNL-leased facility on the Washington State University (WSU) campus. Additionally, PNNL conducts research outside of the Tri-Cities including Sequim, Washington and Portland, Oregon. These outside areas are considered satellite facilities (PNNL 2012a).**


## Environmental Analysis

This Environmental Assessment presents an evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating these proposed facilities, including impacts on land use, air quality, water quality, geological resources, biological resources, cultural and historic resources, socioeconomics, environmental justice, resource commitments, transportation, waste management, noise, and human health and safety. Cumulative impacts with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable operations in the vicinity were also considered.

The exact footprint and design of each facility has not been finalized; therefore, bounding analyses were used to determine impacts from the Proposed Action. Data from recent construction of new facilities on the DOE PNNL Site, and data from operating facilities were used to bound the analyses. The two alternatives assessed are the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative. The No-Action Alternative assumes existing research laboratories continue to function on the South Federal Campus on the DOE PNNL Site without the benefit of the additional research capabilities.

Construction of the proposed facilities and infrastructure would be compatible with existing land-use designations established by the DOE, Benton County, and the City of Richland. No adverse impacts to site geology are expected. Temporary noise and air-quality impacts would be anticipated during construction, but would be within regulatory standards for criteria pollutants and particulates. Impacts on surface and ground water quality from construction would be expected to be minimal. The South Federal Campus houses no historic properties, and protective measures are in place should unknown cultural resources be discovered by site construction workers. The South Federal Campus does not contain sensitive biological resources or critical habitats that would be affected by construction. Effluents and wastes generated during construction would be minimized to the extent practicable. Minor positive employment and income impacts would result from construction. Transportation impacts related to the construction of proposed facilities would likely be minor. Approximately 321 $m^3$ (420 $yd^3$) of construction and demolition debris would be generated and disposed of at Horn Rapids Sanitary landfill. Because construction activities would be staged over several years, impacts from disposal of construction debris would be negligible. Health and safety risks to the workers and members of the public from construction activities would be small.

Operational impacts would be minimal and similar to the impacts from current facilities at PNNL. No unique occupational health and safety hazards would be expected from operation of the proposed facilities. Construction and operation of the proposed facilities would result in minimal incremental addition to the cumulative impacts of other PNNL operations and other projects in the vicinity and region.

***Public Comment Period is from May 30th – June 30th, 2013***

Pacific Northwest NATIONAL LABORATORY

# *Environmental Assessment for Future Development on the South Federal Campus*

DOE/EA - 1958

# South Federal Campus Development Area


## Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (EMSL)

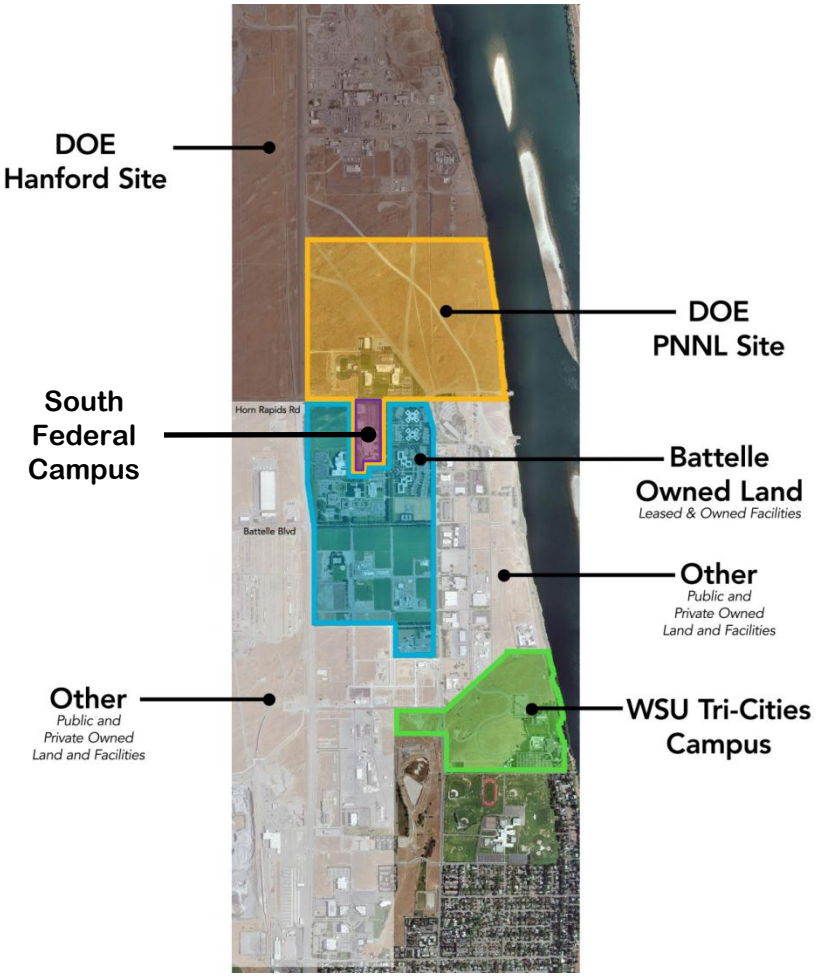
## Public Comment Information

**The U.S. Department of Energy would appreciate your feedback.**

**Please submit all comments to:**

**Kim Williams - NEPA Document Manager**
**PNNL South Federal Campus EA**
**P.O. Box 350, MS K9-42,**
**Richland, WA 99352**
**kimberly.williams@pnso.science.doe.gov**

**Cc: Terri Aldridge – NEPA Compliance Officer**
**theresa.aldridge@pnso.science.doe.gov**




## Public Information Locations

Richland Public Library
955 Northgate Dr.
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 942-7454

PNSO Website
pnso.oro.doe.gov

***Public Comment Period is from May 30th – June 30th, 2013***